

# Neighbor to Neighbor

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## Our Mission

*Working in partnership with the community to provide public safety services which enhance the safety, security, and quality of life of the community.*

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## Human Tragedy brings out the best AND WORST in people SCAMMERS EXPLOIT BOSTON BOMBINGS

By Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist

It's been said, *the only things certain in life are death and taxes*. Well, I think it's safe to add, *charity scams after events of human tragedy*. It's become pretty much a certainty that after events like 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Super Storm Sandy, and the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Japan in 2011, that scammers waste no time in capitalizing on people's pain and suffering. They target you and your emotions,...your desire to help in some small way. For most of us, that means monetary donations, as traveling to these devastated areas is not always feasible.

Recently, our attention has turned to those affected by the bombs that exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. For most of us, our heart breaks for the loss of life, those hurt physically and emotionally by the explosions, and for the family and friends close to the victims. It's just that heartbreak that scammers are counting on. Almost immediately after the bombings, there were reports of a fake Twitter account called, *@\_BostonMarathon* offering to donate one-dollar for every retweet. Ultimately, the account was determined to be a fake, and was suspended. This example is likely one of many scams that have and/or will surface as a result of the Boston bombings.

### So, when you want to donate to a *cause*, keep these things in mind:

- ◆ Don't give out personal information (ie: bank account numbers) to someone soliciting by phone or email.
- ◆ You initiate contact with the charity of your choice.
- ◆ Do not donate cash, and NEVER send contributions with a runner, by wire, or overnight parcel pick-up service.
- ◆ Make checks payable to the organization; not the person collecting funds.
- ◆ Be sure you are contributing to a legitimate organization registered with the Oregon Department of Justice by searching its [online database](#) or by calling 971-673-1880.

## Looking for Love Online? Click on a healthy dose of skepticism

Article courtesy of the Oregon Attorney General's Office



Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has a warning for people looking for love online. That soldier who has been professing devotion via email may actually be a con artist looking for cash.

Internet scammers posing as romantically-minded members of the U.S. military are sadly conning people out of millions of dollars. The complaints to local law enforcement about the *soldier scam* are increasing in frequency. In one recent case, a Hillsboro woman lost more than \$750,000.

Attorney General Rosenblum advises Oregonians to always maintain a healthy dose of skepticism. The anonymity of the internet means that you cannot be sure of the real name, age, marital status, nationality, or even gender of your new "heartthrob."

The con artists are often from foreign countries using untraceable email addresses.

Once these "soldiers" make a connection, they then begin asking for money for medical bills, cell phone internet charges, transportation, and even the cost of a wedding. They route accounts through numerous locations and utilize pay-per hour internet cyber cafes, which makes finding the scammer and recovering the money extremely difficult.

### Minimizing your risk...

- ◆ Do not wire money to someone you have not met in person.
- ◆ Be wary of warp-speed proclamations of love, particularly if they are accompanied by pleas for cash.
- ◆ If you never get to actually speak with the person on the phone or are told they will not receive letters in the mail, BE SUSPICIOUS! Legitimate servicemen and women serving overseas will often have an APO or FPO in their mailing address.
- ◆ Do not send money or ship property to a third-party or company, especially those in an African country.

Anyone who thinks they may have been contacted by a scammer should immediately report it to Oregon's Department of Justice Consumer Protection Hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or go to the [Oregon DOJ's website](http://www.doj.state.or.us).

## Scam Alert Network

Keep update on the latest scams to hit Oregon. Join the Oregon DOJ's Scam Alert Network. It's easy to do!

Go to: [www.doj.state.or.us](http://www.doj.state.or.us)

Click on the icon that says, *Sign Up Oregon Scam Alert Network*.

At minimum, provide your name and email address, and click on *submit*. That's it!

When scams emerge, you'll be notified via email. If you don't have an email account, find a friend who does.

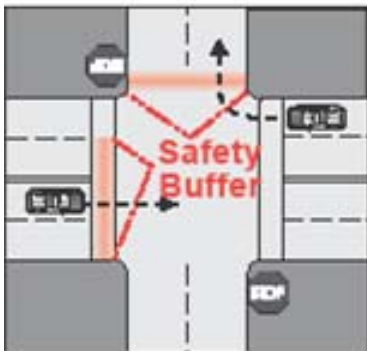
You can also view a summary of past scams by going to the same website and clicking on *Previous Alerts* listed on the DOJ's Scam Alert webpage.



## ***Hillsboro Police Receives Grant to Conduct Pedestrian Safety Details***

By Sgt Diana Foesch, Traffic Safety Division

Hillsboro Police will soon begin its yearly pedestrian safety/crosswalk enforcement operations. The grant-funded program is intended to raise driver awareness and encourage compliance with Oregon Stop and Stay Stopped law. It's hoped that through greater driver compliance, the number of auto-pedestrian crashes will decrease.



*The law requires motorists to yield right-of-way to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks...the lane of travel plus the next lane. It applies when the vehicle is turning or going straight.*

*At light-controlled intersections, drivers must allow pedestrians to clear the lane of travel plus six-feet of the adjacent lane.*



### **Driver responsibilities:**

- ◆ Stop for a pedestrian who is crossing the street at a marked **or** unmarked crosswalk.
- ◆ Don't pass a vehicle stopped at a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- ◆ Stop for a blind person crossing the street at **any point** and continue to yield until the person has cleared the roadway.
- ◆ Yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian on a sidewalk when entering a driveway.
- ◆ Obey speed laws and watch out for small children; especially in residential areas and school zones.
- ◆ Stop for school safety patrols

### **PEDESTRIANS must also exercise DUE CARE!**

- ◆ Obey traffic control devices. Don't start to cross a signalized intersection showing a "Wait" or "Don't Walk" signal.
- ◆ Don't enter the roadway in such a manner as to create an immediate hazard.
- ◆ Yield the right-of-way to a vehicle when crossing the street at any point other than a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
- ◆ Don't cross against a gated or activated railroad crossing.
- ◆ Yield to emergency vehicles.
- ◆ Don't use the roadway as a walkway when a sidewalk is available.
- ◆ Walk on the left shoulder of the road when there is no sidewalk available on either side.



## THE VALUE OF HONEST, RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION and using Feedback

By Nancy Steffen, Hillsboro Police Volunteer Mediator

For many people, giving “feedback” to another person is not always easy, especially what I like to call, “hard to hear” feedback. Your inner voice may say, “if I tell them how I feel, they may get mad, or yell at me, or even not want to be my friend, co-worker (whatever) anymore.” But it is a skill you can learn and gain in your mastery just like riding a bicycle.

Some guidelines for giving and receiving feedback:

### GIVING:

- ◆ **Use of “I” statements**  
(own your own thoughts and feelings)
- ◆ **Comment soon after behavior**
- ◆ **Describe behavior in sufficient detail so others understand**
- ◆ **Comment on specific observable behavior**
- ◆ **Describe rather than judge**
- ◆ **Comment on behavior which can be changed**
- ◆ **Give feedback which is appropriate to the situation**
- ◆ **Ask if feedback is clear**

### RECEIVING:

- ◆ **Acknowledge feedback**
- ◆ **Ask for clarification, if needed**
- ◆ **Listen**
- ◆ **Be receptive and non-defensive**
- ◆ **Ask for feedback, if you want it**
- ◆ **Avoid rationalization and over generalization**
- ◆ **Share your reaction**
- ◆ **Respond with “I” statements**
- ◆ **Decide whether or not to change**

For those of you who’d like to try and use some training wheels, here’s a formula you can try:

When you \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_.  
Describe the action in specific detail      Describe your thoughts and feelings      Tell how it affects you

Now, the last idea I’ll put forward is that you should try giving feedback *first* before asking managers, moms and dads, wives or husbands or others to intervene. Why? It is more respectful. You avoid resorting to “telling on” someone. It’s empowering. Being able to resolve your own conflicts is exhilarating. Last, whether or not the other party responds to your feedback, your stress level goes down. Try it, you may even like it.

# Municipal CODE Enforcement

## Spring Rains, Dash of Sun

## Recipe for vigorous vegetative growth

By Steve Piper, Police Field Operations Specialist

Spring is here, and that means the grass and weeds are growing fast! Overgrown and unmaintained vegetation is not only unsightly, but can be an early sign of property blight or result in additional property risks.

Hillsboro City Code requires property owners to keep their grass height under 12-inches. In

addition, trees must be trimmed to a minimum of eight-feet above a sidewalk and 13-feet above a roadway. Bushes, shrubbery, and other vegetation must be maintained in such a way as to not overhang onto a sidewalk or roadway.

Beginning in May, Hillsboro Police Code Enforcement will begin



notifying homeowners that have the potential to be or are currently in violation of the Hillsboro Municipal Code. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of fire season and any tall grass or noxious vegetation that is easily ignited may be an additional violation.

For more information on other  
City of Hillsboro Municipal Codes,  
call 503-615-6645  
or Non-Emergency Dispatch  
at 503-629-0111.  
You may also visit  
<http://qcode.us/codes/hillsboro/>

*A well-maintained yard may trim the risk of crime on your property*

## Planting CPTED Strategies

By Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist

While it's advisable to keep your yard maintained for purposes of abiding by Hillsboro City Code, it also makes good crime prevention sense.

Traditionally, crime prevention methods have emphasized people and procedures (ie: private security, law enforcement, and punitive measures) and target hardening (doors, windows, and locks). Though both are essential, too much of these methods can create a climate of fear.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) enhances crime prevention tactics by focusing on the natural environment; manipulating the environment is such a way that encourages *deterrence* and *detection* of criminal or unwanted behavior. CPTED encompasses three core strategies: *Natural Surveillance*, *Natural Access Control* and *Territorial Reinforcement*. Employment of these strategies are meant to be subtle, and aesthetically pleasing.

So, here are a few tips for *planting* CPTED strategies at your home:

### Natural Surveillance

I think it's safe to say that most criminals don't want to be seen, preferring to carry out their unwanted activities under some sort of concealment. By opening up the space in your yard, you create the *threat* of being observed, by both you and your neighbors. You also create the potential for identifying and apprehending such individuals.

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## Planting CPTED Strategies (continued)

**Use the three-foot, six foot rule.** Keep bushes and other shrubbery trimmed to roughly three-feet in height and width. This takes away areas of concealment. If you cringe at the thought of *wacking back* your shrubbery this much, then clear a roughly four-foot square area at the base of the plant. At the very least, this will expose the feet and legs of potential criminals.

Trees should have a six-foot clearance from ground to the lowest hanging branch. This will allow for a clear line of sight for you and your neighbors to view unwanted activities on your property.

**Let there be light!** Lighting and landscaping go hand-in-hand. Lights obviously bring greater visibility during evening hours. However, be careful not to overtake the lighting with trees and other plants which can easily block it. Strategic placement of both is important.

Motion-sensor lighting creates a startle-effect in an unwanted guest, and draws the attention of you and other neighbors.

### Natural Access Control

Criminals will occupy spaces they deem most beneficial to their illegal activities. However, you can certainly discourage them from being in certain areas.

**Plant hostile vegetation - dense, thorny groundcover and bushes.** Hostile vegetation near windows will make an intruder think twice about trying to gain entry. The same shrubbery along a fence will not only deter taggers from getting close, but will also take away the canvas for graffiti. Examples of hostile vegetation include barberry, Oregon grape holly and rose bushes. Especially effective from the rose family is the Rugosa Rose. *Check with a local nursery for more ideas.*



**Place gravel on the ground under window areas.** When stepped on, the gravel creates noise and can alert you or your neighbors to an unwanted person on your property.

**Plant dense, low-level bushes along the perimeter of your yard.** One to two-foot tall bushes planted in such a way creates a symbolic barrier. It can discourage dog owners from walking their pets on your property, and leaving behind unwanted *treasures!*

**Light the way!** Placing lighting along a pathway or at the front door provides additional guidance for legitimate visitors and reinforces where they're to go. For unwanted visitors that travel outside the boundaries of the light, it can bring attention to their potential criminal intent.

### Territorial Reinforcement

Many criminals like to prey on properties that appear unkempt or uncared for. It's important for you to project a sense of pride and ownership in your property which sends the message, "I care about my property and criminal activity is not welcome!"



**Maintain your yard.** Mow your lawn, and keep shrubbery and trees trimmed.

**Plant dense, low-level bushes along the perimeter of your yard.** It creates a symbolic barrier, and delineates between private and public areas.

**Install fencing.** It delineates between public and private space. A wrought iron fence is ideal. It's aesthetically pleasing, while providing decorative features with sharp/pointed edges (*natural access control*). It provides for good visibility (*natural surveillance*), difficult to climb, and discourages graffiti, as there is no canvas to tag.

**Add garden art and signage.** Emphasizes care and ownership. Signage can be anything from a "welcome" sign to clearly marked numbers of your address.

# Out Reach



## Citizens' Academy

Fostering greater understanding, citizens get an up close look at law enforcement, and learn how and why officers make the decisions they do.



## PRESCRIPTION DRUG

Drop Off **305** pounds collected



## Latino Cultural Festival



# Looking Ahead



## Safety Town

*A week-long, half-day safety camp for five and six year olds.*

**Session One: June 24th-28th**

**Session Two: July 15th-19th**

*Peter Boscaw Conference Center*

For more information on Safety Town, call 503-615-6756

To register your child for Safety Town, go to [Hillsboro Parks and Recreation](#)



**Gather your neighbors for an evening of food, activities, and a visit by the Hillsboro Police Party Patrol!**

## National Night Out!

**Tuesday, August 6th**



National Night Out is an annual event which encourages strong neighbor to neighbor ties, and sends the message to criminals that their activities are not welcome in the neighborhood. Communities with strong neighbor to neighbor ties typically have less crime, and improved livability because residents are "invested" in one another, and feel a strong commitment to look out for one another.

For more information, and to register your National Night Out party, go to [NNO Party Patrol](#).



Beaverton | Forest Grove | Hillsboro  
Tigard | Tualatin | Washington County

## Landlord Forums

*Better manage your rental property.  
Network w/other landlords.  
Partner w/local law enforcement.*

**6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**at PCC Willowcreek Campus**



**May 8th**  
*Code Enforcement  
and Hoarding Issues*

**June 12th**  
*Fair Housing Laws and  
Answers to Legal Matters*

**ALSO:** Legal questions answered  
by Attorney Jeffrey S. Bennett

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**911**  
**Emergencies**

Dispatch  
Non-Emergency  
503-629-0111

Hillsboro Police  
Records  
503-681-6175

Hillsboro Police  
Code Enforcement  
503-615-6645

Hillsboro Police  
Volunteer Services  
503-681-6474

Hillsboro Police  
Graffiti Removal  
Assistance (hardship)  
503-681-5395

Washington County  
Animal Services  
503-846-7041

## Community Enhancement Team

*CET is committed to working with its residential and business partners to facilitate community excellence through safety education, crime prevention, resource assistance, and problem-solving.*

Forming Partnerships  
**Building Relationships**  
Enhancing Livability

### Crime Prevention Specialists

#### Residential Community

Julie Carrasco

[julie.carrasco@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:julie.carrasco@hillsboro-oregon.gov)

503-615-6756

Brandi Gilbert

[brandi.gilbert@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:brandi.gilbert@hillsboro-oregon.gov)

503-615-6785

#### Business Community

Earleen Reimann

[earleen.reimann@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:earleen.reimann@hillsboro-oregon.gov)

503-681-5207

### Police Program Specialist

#### Mediation

503-615-6797

### Police Program Coordinators

Susie Serres

#### Volunteer Services

[susan.serres@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:susan.serres@hillsboro-oregon.gov)

503-681-6474

Sharon Brown

#### Domestic Violence Program Coordinator

[sharon.brown@hillsboro-oregon.gov](mailto:sharon.brown@hillsboro-oregon.gov)

503-615-6740

### Hillsboro Police Department

#### West Precinct

250 SE 10th Avenue  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Phone: 503-681-6175

Fax: 503-681-6260

#### East Precinct

20795 NW Cornell Road, Suite 100  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

#### HPD Website

<http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/police>

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on

#### Facebook and Twitter

[www.facebook.com/hillsboropd](http://www.facebook.com/hillsboropd)

[www.twitter.com/HillsboroPolice](http://www.twitter.com/HillsboroPolice)